

HOUSE RESOLUTION 39
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dr. Richard W. Phillips upon the completion of his term as President of the Southern Council of Optometrists.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those outstanding Tennesseans who have risen to the top of their respective professions and who have been chosen by their peers to assume roles of leadership; and

WHEREAS, one such eminent resident of this State is Dr. Richard W. Phillips, OD, FAAO, of Washington County, a Regional Executive Director for TLC Laser Eye Centers (Tennessee Operations), a member of the TLC Clinical Advisory Group and a Clinical Director Advisor; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2004, Dr. Phillips was installed as the President of the Southern Council of Optometrists, having previously served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President Elect over the past four years; he is also a past President of the Tennessee Academy of Optometry; a Trustee/Director, 1998 OD of the Year and past President of the Tennessee Optometric Association; the current chair of the Professional Relations Committee, a current member of the Healthy Eyes, Healthy People Oversight Committee, and a past member of the New Technologies Committee of the American Optometric Association; and Chair of the Technology/Internet Oversight Committee of SECO International and 1998-2000 Trustee of SECO International's Southern Council; and

WHEREAS, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Phillips of Unicoi, Dr. Phillips graduated from Milligan College in 1974 and from Southern College of Optometry in 1978; he has received the American Optometry Association's Recognition Award sixteen times thus far; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard W. Phillips entered private practice in Johnson City and Gray, Tennessee, in 1978, and from 1983-1996, was a partner in the John Wilson Eye Clinic in Johnson City before becoming Executive Director of TLC Laser Eye Centers in 1996; he maintains membership in the Tennessee Optometric Association, the Tennessee Academy of

Optometry, the Southern Council of Optometrists, the American Optometric Association, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his field, Dr. Phillips has been published in professional journals and newsletters, on the AOA website, and is a contributing author to *The Laser Vision Breakthrough*; he has lectured widely in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard W. Phillips served his country as a Captain in the Tennessee Air National Guard in the 164th Tactical Airlift Group in Memphis; he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Award and is a past member of the Armed Forces Optometry Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phillips has offered his leadership and talents in other areas, having served as Sunday school teacher, Youth Choir Director and Director of Fine Arts in area churches; he has directed or appeared in more than 25 musicals and plays in college and at the Johnson City Community Theater, and served for five years as President of the Johnson City Community Theater; and

WHEREAS, his service to the Southern Council of Optometrists has been no less impressive; his guidance, leadership, and fortitude enabled him to render sterling service in his role as President; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2005, at the end of his term as President, Dr. Richard Phillips will adopt all of the duties and responsibilities accompanying the post of past President with the grace and acuity he has exhibited throughout his years with the Southern Council of Optometrists; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Phillips is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his three children, Melissa, Richard, and Sarah, each of whom is pursuing his or her education and each of whom shows great promise; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to honor this community leader and outstanding member of his profession; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Dr. Richard W. Phillips upon the occasion of the completion of a successful term as President of the Southern Council of Optometrists, recognize his many years of sterling service to the Council, thank him for his years of service to his profession and to the citizens of this State, and offer him our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.